

### Explanatory Remarks

Please amend claims as indicated hereinabove, and note that the amendments given here, using the new, optional amendment format according to the anticipated revision of 37 CFR 1.121, are based upon the application as *originally filed*. Accordingly, vacation of the amendments to the claims as requested in Response A, and substitution therefor of the amendments hereinabove, is respectfully requested. (It is not Applicant's intention to vacate any of the other amendments requested via Response A.) It is believed that this approach will cause the least confusion. Applicant has tried to limit the claim amendments presented herein to those new wordings already requested in Response A as filed, plus the additional rewordings/corrections occasioned by Paper No. 8 dated April 9, 2003; however, Applicant has also herein taken the liberty of inserting the referenced formula and its term definitions into an additional claim (notably Claim 21) for the purpose of removing the reference therein to Claim 1, thereby simply clarifying the independent nature of Claim 21. Applicant has also made a few other minor amendments of a purely clarifying, "clean-up" nature, occasioned by Applicant's fresh review in response to Paper No. 8 and intended only to facilitate the Examiner's reconsideration, and respectfully requests entrance of these amendments as well.

Because of the nature of Paper No. 8, the claims' overall status has not changed since the Applicant's submission of Applicant's Response A.

Applicant notes that the changes initiated particularly by this Supplemental Response A to Claims 1 and 18 are to correct the obvious typographical error in which "Z" was inadvertently substituted for "A", and also to delete the references to "ions" for the sake of consistency. This consistency is believed by Applicant to be preferable because, while it will be understood by those in the art that both "anions" and "negative valence radicals" are, indeed, categories of ions *per se*, the term "ions" therein was intended simply to represent both categories together and, as such, use of the alternative term could conceivably be confusing to the skilled practitioner. With this amendment, such confusion can be easily

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eliminated. It is hoped that the deletion of the word "ions" is acceptable at this point.

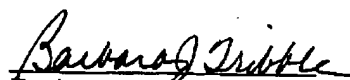
Amendment to Claim 2 eliminates any confusion regarding the distinctions between M' and M'', each being further bound by the limitations (e.g., divalent or trivalent) provided in the independent claims wherein they are defined.

Amendment to Claim 4 is to correct dependency. The amendment to Claim 19 corrects the same clarity issue as was suffered by Claim 4 prior to the amendment thereof. Dependent Claims 7, 22 and 24 contain minor new amendments which only consist of language therein with their independent claims. Applicant believes that no amendment requested hereby alters the scope of any claim from that as originally presented.

The independent claims currently outstanding are Claims 1, 18, 19, and 21. Claims 2-17, 20, and 22-24 are the outstanding dependent claims. Currently claims 1-14, 16-21, and 23 stand rejected, and claims 15, 22, and 24 stand objected to, via the Office Action issued on September 25, 2002, and Claims 1, 2 and 4, as well as (presumably) Claim 18 stand objected to, via the Office Action issued on April 9, 2003.

Applicant believes that he has now corrected all deficits noted in the Office Action dated April 9, 2003 and that all stated objections and 112, 102 and 103 rejections of the Office Action of September 25, 2002 are now overcome via a combined reading of his previously-filed Response A and [this] Supplemental Response A. Accordingly, it is believed that the twenty-four (24) pending claims as currently constructed are fully in condition for allowance. Such allowance is now most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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